

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

13 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
THROUGH : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment
SUBJECT : Alert Memorandum

25X1 The text of the Alert Memorandum has been coordinated within the Community.

25X1 [redacted] I should say, however, that I am not entirely happy with the vagueness of three phrases in the text. Discussions with [redacted], however, provides the following further clarification of these terms:

1. "High probability" - merely covers the fact that there is a difference among analysts ranging from 60 to 90 percent probability.

2. The option of Chinese penetration "relatively deep" into Vietnam means that it might be far enough to threaten but not actually attack Hanoi. (Probably in the range of 50 to 60 miles.)

3. The reference to "eventual withdrawal" of Chinese forces also covers a range of possibly from a lightening strike to a longer stay with the probability that they would remain in Vietnam at most a matter of weeks.

[redacted]
Robert R. Bowie

Attachment
A/S

SECRET

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

National Intelligence Officers

NFAC #0782-79
12 February 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for National Foreign Assessment

FROM :
National Intelligence Officer for China

SUBJECT : Alert Memorandum on China-Vietnam-USSR

1. Action Requested: DCI signature on the attached memorandum forwarding to the NSC an Alert Memorandum on China-Vietnam-USSR. ☐

25X1

2. Background: The Chinese buildup along the Vietnamese border has grown unabated since our last Alert Memorandum of 19 January. We think that in military terms the Chinese are ready to go, and that their push, if it occurs, would be larger than we thought in mid-January. The political signals are mixed, but we think there is a high probability that the Chinese will act. ☐

25X1

3. This Alert Memorandum has been coordinated with DIA, INR, and NSA. ☐

25X1

Attachment
NI IAM 79-10004

SECRET

25X1

SECRET
The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

12 February 1979

ALERT MEMORANDUM

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Security Council

SUBJECT : Alert Memorandum -- China-Vietnam-USSR

25X1
The Chinese buildup along the Vietnamese border has grown unabated since our last Alert Memorandum of 19 January. We think that in military terms the Chinese are ready to go, and that their push, if it occurs, would be larger than we thought in mid-January. The political signals are mixed, but we think there is a high probability that the Chinese will act. ☐

STANSFIELD TURNER

Attachment
NI IAM 79-10004

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

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